

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A system for retrieving gathering information from pre-selected web sites information sources connected to a network by uttering using speech commands into a voice enabled device and for providing to users retrieved information in an audio form via said voice enabled device indicating specific actions to be performed, said system comprising:
 - a computer, said computer operatively connected to the internet;
 - a voice enabled device operatively connected to said computer, said voice enabled device configured to receive employed by users to communicate speech commands indicating specific actions to be performed from users;
 - at least one speaker-independent speech recognition device, said speaker-independent speech recognition device operatively connected to said computer and to said voice enabled device;
 - at least one speech synthesis device, said speech synthesis device operatively connected to said computer and to said voice enabled device;
 - at least one instruction set for identifying said information to be retrieved, said instruction set being associated with said computer, said instruction set comprising:
 - a plurality of pre-selected web site addresses, each said web site address identifying a web site containing said information to be retrieved;
 - at least one recognition grammar associated with said computer, each said recognition grammar corresponding to each said instruction set and corresponding to a speech command;
 - said speech command commands comprising an information request requests-selectable by the user;
 - a database operatively connected with a computer said database containing stored digital form commands for operating said system;
 - said a speaker-independent speech recognition device configured to receive for receiving from users via said voice enabled device said speech command commands and to select the

corresponding recognition grammar upon receiving said speech command indicating specific actions to be performed, said speaker-independent speech recognition device configured to convert said speech commands to data messages;

said a computer configured to retrieve said instruction set corresponding to said recognition grammar selected by said speaker-independent speech recognition device operatively connected with said database and said speech recognition device and configured to match said data messages with said stored digital form commands and configured to carry out the specific actions indicated by said speech commands;

said computer further configured to search access at least one of said plurality of web sites identified by said instruction set to obtain said information to be retrieved, said computer configured to first access said first web site of said plurality of web sites and, if said information to be retrieved is not found at said first web site, said computer configured to sequentially access said plurality of web sites until said information to be retrieved is found or until said plurality of web sites has been accessed; information sources connected to a network to gather information from said information sources connected to said network in response to said information requests.

said speech synthesis device configured to produce an audio message containing any retrieved information from said pre-selected web sites, and said speech synthesis device further configured to transmit said audio message to said users via said voice enabled device.

2. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 wherein said internet network is the Internet.

3. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 wherein said internet is a local area network information sources are web sites.

4. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the said voice enabled device is a standard telephone, an IP telephone, a cellular phone, a PDA, a personal computer, a DVD player, a television or other video display device, a CD player, a MP3 player, or any other device capable of transmitting said audio message ~~audio playing an audio signal~~.

5. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 wherein said speaker-independent speech recognition device is configured to analyze ~~analyzes~~ phonemes to recognize said speech commands.

6. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 wherein said speaker-independent speech recognition device is configured to recognize ~~recognizes~~ naturally spoken speech commands.

7. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 wherein said ~~database contains a stored list of said information sources connected to said network~~ instruction set further comprises a content descriptor associated with each said web site address, said content descriptor pre-defining a portion of said web site containing said information to be retrieved.

8. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 ~~7~~ wherein said computer is further configured to periodically ~~search~~ poll each of said web sites without being instructed by said user to determine the availability of each said web site, the duration of time for each said web site to respond to a request from said computer, and changes to the location of said information to be retrieved from each said web site, said computer further configured to create a ranking of said plurality of web sites based on said periodic polling ~~information sources contained in said stored list and also configured to assign ranks to said information sources to reflect the results of said periodic search.~~

9. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 ~~7~~ wherein said computer is further configured to periodically search said ~~internet network~~ to identify new web sites ~~information sources and to add said new web sites information sources to said plurality of web sites stored list.~~

10. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 ~~9~~ wherein said ~~computer is further configured to periodically search said information sources contained in said stored list and also configured to assign ranks to said information sources to reflect the results of said periodic search~~

instruction set further comprises a ranking associated with each said web site address, said ranking indicating the order in which the plurality of pre-selected web sites are accessed.

11. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 10 & wherein said computer is configured to modify ranks are established or modified said rankings based upon utility considerations of said information sources at least one of a plurality of criteria, said plurality of criteria comprising:

the availability of each said web site;

the duration of time for each said web site to respond to a request from said computer;

and

changes to the location of said information to be retrieved from each said web site.

12. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 11 wherein ~~said utility considerations comprise one or more of the following list: functionality of said information sources, speed of said information sources, or changes to said information sources that lower its utility for a specific information request~~ computer is configured to weigh said criteria with respect to one another when modifications to said rankings are based on more than one of said plurality of criteria.

13. (Currently Amended): The system in claim 10 & wherein said computer is configured to access searches said plurality of web sites in order of ranking information sources with the highest rank in order to retrieve said information requested by said user, said computer further configured to first access said web site having the highest ranking.

14. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 further comprising a database operatively connected to said computer, wherein said database configured to store said information gathered by said system from said web sites information sources in response to said information requests is stored by said database and processed by said computer into a message, said system further configured to transmit said message to said voice enabled device or such other destination as designated by said user.

15. (Currently Amended): The system of claim ~~10~~ 14 wherein ~~said message is an audio message~~ computer is further configured to modify said rankings associated with said plurality of web sites such that said web site having said information to be retrieved is assigned the highest ranking and any web sites not having said information to be retrieved are assigned lower rankings.

16. (Currently Amended): The system of claim ~~14~~ 15 ~~further comprising a speech synthesis engine configured to create said audio message~~ wherein each said recognition grammar and each said instruction set are stored in said database.

17. (Currently Amended): The system of claim ~~9~~ 15 ~~further comprising a pre-recorded audio concatenation application configured to create said audio message~~ wherein said computer is configured to search each of said new web sites without being instructed by said user to determine the availability of each said new web site, the duration of time for each said new web site to respond to a request from said computer, and changes to the location of said information to be retrieved from each said new web site, said computer further configured to create a ranking of said plurality of new web sites based on said periodic searches.

18. (New): A method for retrieving information from pre-selected web sites by uttering speech commands into a voice enabled device and for providing to users retrieved information in an audio form via said voice enabled device, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer operatively connected to the internet, said computer further being operatively connected to at least one speaker-independent speech recognition engine and to at least one speech synthesis engine;

providing a voice enabled device operatively connected to said computer, said voice enabled device configured to receive speech commands from users;

providing at least one instruction set stored in a database operatively connected to said computer, said instruction set comprising:

a plurality of pre-selected web site addresses, each said web site address
identifying a web site containing said information to be retrieved;

providing a speech command to said speaker-independent speech recognition engine, said speech command corresponding to said instruction set;

said speaker-independent speech recognition engine assigning said speech command to a recognition grammar, said speech command and said recognition grammar corresponding to said instruction set;

transmitting said speech command to said speaker-independent speech recognition engine;

said speaker-independent speech recognition engine receiving said speech command and selecting the corresponding recognition grammar upon receiving said speech command;

said computer retrieving said instruction set corresponding to said recognition grammar selected by said speaker-independent speech recognition engine;

said computer accessing at least one of said plurality of web sites identified by said instruction set to obtain said information to be retrieved, said computer first accessing said first web site of said plurality of web sites and, if said information to be retrieved is not found at said first web site, said computer sequentially accessing said plurality of web sites until said information to be retrieved is found or until said plurality of web sites has been accessed;

said speech synthesis engine producing an audio message containing any retrieved information from said pre-selected web sites; and

said speech synthesis engine transmitting said audio message to said users via said voice enabled device.

19. (New): The method of claim 18 wherein said instruction set further comprises a content descriptor associated with each said web site address, said content descriptor pre-defining a portion of said web site containing said information to be retrieved.

20. (New): The method of claim 18 wherein said instruction set further comprises a ranking from highest to lowest associated with each said web site, said ranking indicating the order in which the plurality of pre-selected web sites are accessed.

21. (New): The method of claim 20 wherein said computer accesses said plurality of web sites based on said ranking, said computer first accessing said web site having the highest ranking.
22. (New): The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of adjusting said rankings associated with said plurality of web sites such that said web site having said information to be retrieved is assigned the highest ranking and any web sites not having said information to be retrieved are assigned lower rankings.
23. (New): The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of periodically polling each said web site to determine whether said web site contains said information to be retrieved.
24. (New): The method of claim 23 wherein the computer periodically polls each said web site without being instructed by said user to determine the availability of each said web site, the duration of time for each said web site to respond to a request from said computer, and changes to the location of said information to be retrieved from each said web site, said computer creating a ranking of said plurality of web sites based on said periodic polling.
25. (New): The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of periodically searching said internet to find new web sites containing said information to be retrieved, and adding said new web sites to said plurality of web sites.
26. (New): A system for retrieving information from pre-selected web sites by uttering speech commands into a phone and for providing to users retrieved information in an audio form via said phone, said system comprising:
- a computer, said computer operatively connected to the internet and to at least one phone;
 - at least one speaker-independent speech recognition engine, said speaker-independent speech recognition engine operatively connected to said computer;
 - at least one speech synthesis engine, said speech synthesis engine operatively connected to said computer;

a database, said database operatively connected to said computer;
at least one instruction set stored in said database for identifying said information to be retrieved, said instruction set comprising:

a plurality of pre-selected web site addresses, each said web site address identifying a web site containing said information to be retrieved;

a content descriptor associated with each said web site address, said content descriptor pre-defining a portion of said web site containing said information to be retrieved;

a ranking from highest to lowest associated with each said web site address, said ranking indicating the order in which the plurality of pre-selected web sites are accessed;
at least one recognition grammar stored in said database, each said recognition grammar corresponding to each said instruction set and corresponding to a speech command;

said speaker-independent speech recognition engine configured to receive from users via said phone a speech command and to select the corresponding recognition grammar upon receiving said speech command;

said computer configured to retrieve said instruction set corresponding to said recognition grammar selected by said speaker-independent speech recognition device;

said computer further configured to access at least one of said plurality of web sites identified by said instruction set to obtain said information to be retrieved, said computer configured to first access said web site having the highest ranking and, if said information to be retrieved is not found at said web site having the highest ranking, said computer configured to subsequently access said plurality of web sites in order of rankings until said information to be retrieved is found or until said plurality of web sites has been accessed;

said computer further configured to establish or adjust said rankings associated with said plurality of web sites such that said web site having said information to be retrieved is assigned the highest ranking and any web sites not having said information to be retrieved are assigned lower rankings;

said speech synthesis engine configured to produce an audio message containing any retrieved information from said pre-selected web sites, and said speech synthesis engine further configured to transmit said audio message to said users via said phone.

27. (New): The system of claim 26 wherein said phone comprises a standard telephone, a cellular phone, or an IP phone.
28. (New): The system of claim 26 wherein said internet is a local area network.
29. (New): The system of claim 26 wherein said internet is a wide area network.
30. (New): The system of claim 26 wherein said internet is the Internet.
31. (New): The system of claim 26 wherein said computer is configured to establish or adjust said rankings associated with said plurality of web sites when instructed by said user to access said plurality of web sites to retrieve said information.
32. (New): The system of claim 26 wherein said computer is configured to establish or adjust said rankings associated with said plurality of web sites based on periodic polling of each of said web sites without being instructed by said user to determine the availability of each said web site, the duration of time for each said web site to respond to a request from said computer, and changes to the location of said information to be retrieved from each said web site.